

11/21/00  
jc930 U.S. PTO

11-22-00

A

KRAMER LEVIN NAFTALIS & FRANKEL LLP

919 THIRD AVENUE

NEW YORK, NY 10022 - 3852

jc930 U.S. PTO  
09/11/7733  
11/21/00

BOX PATENT APPLICATION  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Re: Attorney Docket No. : 056314/0002  
Applicants : Kenichi IGA et al.  
Serial No. : New Patent Application  
Filed : Concurrently Herewith  
Title : **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
OPTICAL FIBER SPLICING**  
Group : Not Yet Assigned  
Examiner : Not Yet Assigned  
Priority : Japanese Patent Application No. 347238/1999  
filed December 7, 1999

Sir:

Kindly file the annexed papers indicated below:

- (X) Patent Application
- (X) Formal Drawings (5 Sheets)
- (X) Certified Copy of Priority Document  
(with English translation of first page)
- (X) Check in the amount of \$490.00 (covering the \$355.00 basic filing  
fee and \$135.00 multiple dependent claim fee all at the Small  
Entity rate)

Small Entity Status Claimed? [X] Yes [ ] No

**CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL UNDER 37 CFR 1.10**

"Express Mail" mailing label number: **EL416700443US**

Date of Deposit: **November 21, 2000**

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Address" service under 37 CFR § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, Box Patent Application.

Dawn M. Samaan

Name

Dawn M. Samaan

Signature

Respectfully submitted,  
KRAMER LEVIN NAFTALIS & FRANKEL LLP

By

Richard L. Moss  
Richard L. Moss, Esq.

Registration No. 39,782

Attorney for Applicants

(212) 715-9100

Dated: November 21, 2000

APPLICATION OF

**KENICHI IGA**

A citizen of Japan

Residing at

2-33-10, Tsukushino

Machida-Shi, Tokyo, Japan

**YOSHIHARU KUWABARA**

A citizen of Japan

Residing at

1627-14, Kisomachi

Machida-Shi, Tokyo, Japan

**KOUJI YAMAMOTO**

A citizen of Japan

Residing at

3190-8-203, Aihara

Machida-Shi, Tokyo, Japan

**JUN MIZUNO**

A citizen of Japan

Residing at

#201 Kureseiru Aobadai

2-17-9, Aobadai, Aoba-ku, Kanagawa-Ken

Yokohama-Shi, Japan

FOR LETTERS PATENT OF THE UNITED STATES

FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OPTICAL FIBER SPLICING**

Randy Lipsitz, Esq.

Registration No. 29,189

Richard L. Moss, Esq.

Registration No. 39,782

Attorneys for Applicants

KRAMER LEVIN NAFTALIS &

FRANKEL LLP

919 Third Avenue

New York, New York 10022

(212) 715-9100

# METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OPTICAL FIBER SPLICING

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention:

5                   This invention relates to a splicer, splicing method and splice structure for splicing optical fibers.

Background Art:

Optical fibers have conventionally been spliced with a mechanical splicer.

10                   A mechanical splicer has a general structure consisting of a base formed with a V-shaped groove (V-groove), a retaining member (flat plate) overlaid on the grooved surface of the base, and a spring for holding the base and retaining member in pressure contact.

                  The method typically used to splice optical fibers with the  
15                   mechanical splicer involves first removing the protective coverings from the terminal portions of the optical fibers to be spliced, disposing wedges or the like to form a space between the base and the flat plate into which the exposed optical fibers can be inserted, inserting one fiber into the V-groove at one end of the base, inserting the other fiber into the V-groove at the other end of the base,  
20                   bringing the two fibers into abutment, removing the wedges, and fixing the fibers by using the retaining member to apply a force orthogonal to the fibers.

                  Once the force of the plate spring has been applied, a force exerted in the direction of fiber abutment has no effect. Therefore, in order to prevent a gap from forming at the abutting faces of the fibers, matching oil is  
25                   usually supplied to the abutment region.

                  Although a device for permanently splicing optical fibers, the mechanical splicer is also sometimes used for temporarily splicing fibers.

                  However, use of a mechanical splicer for temporary splicing is uneconomical and wasteful of material resources because the splicer is  
30                   discarded after fulfilling its purpose.

                  A fiber splicer of nearly the same structure as the mechanical splicer but capable of repeated fiber splicing is also available.

However, this reusable splicer needs to be cleaned of oil and supplied with fresh oil every time it is used.

Moreover, when a multi-filament optical fiber bundle is spliced, differences are likely to occur in the cut length of the individual fibers. With  
5 either the mechanical splicer or the reusable fiber splicer, these differences have to be absorbed by use of matching oil. The splice efficiency is therefore likely to be unstable.

An object of the present invention is therefore to provide a splicer, splicing method and splice structure for splicing optical fibers usable  
10 with both mono-filament optical fibers and multi-filament optical fiber bundles that enable optical fibers to be directly spliced without use of a connector and splicing to be performed simply without use of matching oil.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

15 In its first aspect, the present invention achieves this object by providing an optical fiber splicer including a pair of retaining means for retaining optical fibers to be spliced, and abutment and pressure-contact means for sliding terminal portions of the optical fibers in mutually opposite directions along a groove of V-shaped cross-section, producing substantially equal elastic  
20 forces in the terminal portions, bringing the terminal portions into abutment, and bringing the abutted terminal portions into pressure contact.

By "elastic force" here is meant force acting in the direction of restoring the optical fiber to its original state when it is flexed under application of a load.

25 The elastic forces produced in the terminal portions of the optical fibers gradually increase as the terminal portions slide along the groove of V-shaped cross-section (V-groove) in opposite directions and are of substantially equal magnitude.

The terminal portions of the optical fibers slide along the V-groove under identical conditions, i.e., while being imparted with equal elastic  
30 forces in the direction of forcing them into the V-groove, approach each other, abut, and are then forced into pressure contact.

The splicer according to this aspect of the invention therefore enables optical fibers to be easily spliced with high precision, i.e., with substantially no offset between the centers of their terminal portions, without use of a connector or matching oil.

5           The action and effect of the splicer can be enjoyed not only with mono-filament optical fibers but also with multi-filament optical fiber bundles.

          The individual optical fibers act as springs (produce elastic force). Because of this, each produces its own independent pressure-contact force in the direction of the optical fiber with which it is to mate and can therefore absorb  
10       any difference in cut length that may arise.

          The abutment and pressure-contact means can be a drive mechanism for moving a block formed with the groove of V-shaped cross-section or can be a rotating mechanism for rotating the pair of retaining means.

          The splicer can therefore splice optical fiber without using a  
15       connector.

          The abutment and pressure contact means is not limited to a drive or rotating mechanism but can instead be a slide mechanism as explained in the following.

          The optical fiber splicer is preferably equipped with a pressure  
20       limiting mechanism for limiting pressure applied by the abutment and pressure contact means to a prescribed value.

          The pressure limiting mechanism is provided to protect the optical fibers from breakage by stress in excess of the allowable limit.

          In its second aspect, the present invention achieves its object by  
25       providing an optical fiber splicing method comprising a step of sliding terminal portions of optical fibers to be spliced along a groove of V-shaped cross-section in mutually opposite directions and producing substantially equal elastic forces in the terminal portions, and a step of bringing the terminal portions into abutment and then bringing the abutted terminal portions into pressure contact.

          In its third aspect, the present invention achieves its object by  
30       providing an optical fiber splice structure comprising terminal portions of

optical fibers spliced in a groove of V-shaped cross-section under pressure contact and exertion of substantially equal elastic forces.

The second and third aspects of the invention provide the same effects and advantages as the first.

5 In the splicer, splicing method and splice structure for splicing optical fibers according to this invention, the operations of sliding the optical fibers, bringing them into abutment, and bringing them into pressure contact are preferably conducted respectively and simultaneously in the manner of a continuous operation.

10 In the splicing method and splice structure for splicing optical fibers according to this invention, force is preferably applied to the fibers through a means such as the aforesaid pressure limiting mechanism so as to prevent application of more than a prescribed amount of contact pressure at the abutted fiber faces.

#### 15 BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a plan view of an optical fiber splicer that is a first embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 2 is a front view of the splicer of FIG. 1.

20 FIG. 3 is a side view of the splicer of FIG. 1.

FIG. 4 is a sectional view taken along line A-A in FIG. 2.

FIG. 5 is a sectional view taken along line B-B in FIG. 1.

FIG. 6 is a sectional view taken along line C-C in FIG. 1.

FIG. 7 is a schematic view for explaining the operation of the splicer.

25 FIG. 8 is a schematic view for explaining the operation of the splicer.

FIG. 9 is a schematic view for explaining the operation of the splicer.

FIG. 10 is a schematic view for explaining the operation of the splicer.

FIG. 11 is a diagram illustrating a splicer that is a second embodiment of the invention.

30 FIGs. 12(a) to 12(d) are diagrams for explaining the structure and operation of a splicer that is a third embodiment of the invention.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Embodiments of the optical fiber splicer according to the present invention (hereinafter also referred to simply as "splicer") will now be explained with reference to the drawings.

5                FIGs. 1-3 show plan, front and side views of a splicer that is a first embodiment of the present invention.

FIGs. 4, 5 and 6 show sectional views taken along lines A-A, B-B and C-C in FIG. 2, FIG. 1 and FIG. 1, respectively.

To avoid unnecessary repetition, like members are assigned like  
10 reference symbols in these and the other figures referred to in the following explanation and each will be explained only once.

As shown in FIGs. 1-3, a splicer 1 comprises a body 2 provided on its upper surface 20 with a pair of fiber holders 3, 3 constituting the aforesaid retaining means, a block 5 formed with a groove of V-shaped cross-section (V-groove) 4 that is located in an opening 21 formed in the body 2, and a dial 6  
15 operable for moving the block 5 up and down (as viewed in FIG. 1) within the opening 21.

The body 2 consists of a housing 22 and a cover 23. As shown in FIGs. 4-6, the interior of the body 2 accommodates a slide member 7 whose one  
20 end is fixed to the undersurface 50 of the block 5 and whose other end is provided with a laterally long arm 70, a shaft 80 having the dial 6 and an eccentric cam 8 coaxially fixed thereon, a base 9 for axially supporting the eccentric cam 8, and tension springs 10, 10 for energizing the slide member 7 toward the eccentric cam 8.

25                The dial 6, slide member 7, eccentric cam 8 and tension springs 10, 10 constitute a drive mechanism and the aforesaid abutment and pressure-contact means.

Each of the holders 3, 3 comprises a base plate 30 and a flat plate 31. The base plate 30 is fastened to the cover 23 of the body 2 and its surface is  
30 formed with a groove 300 for defining the position of a fiber FB.

The flat plate 31 is attached to the base plate 30 through a hinge or the like so that after a fiber FB has been set in the groove 300 of the base

plate 30, the flat plate 31 can be swung into face-to-face contact with the base plate 30 for immobilizing the fiber FB.

5 The V-groove 4 is formed in the surface 51 of the block 5 facing the holders 3, 3 in the shape shown in FIG. 6 to extend substantially horizontally at approximately the same height level as the grooves 300.

As best seen in FIG. 1, the holders 3, 3 and the block 5 are positioned relative to one another such that an imaginary extension of each groove 300 (extension of the fiber FB immobilized therein) meets the V-groove 4 of the block 5 at an angle  $\theta$  of around 30 to 40 degrees and that the holders 3, 3 are spaced from the block 5 by the same distance L.

The member designated by reference symbol 11 is an adjustable stop for fine adjustment of the position of the base 9.

The method of using the splicer 1 configured in the foregoing manner will now be explained with reference to FIGs. 8-10.

15 First, the fibers FB, FB to be spliced are attached to the holders 3, 3.

This attachment is preferably made so that the abutting faces S, S of the terminal portions T, T (see FIG. 10) of the fibers FB, FB are spaced from the V-groove 4 of the block 5 by the same distance.

20 The dial 6 is then rotated in one direction or the other. The rotation is transmitted through the shaft 80 to the eccentric cam 8 to cause progressive movement of slide member 7 under the force of the tension springs 10, 10. The block 5 attached to the slide member 7 therefore approaches the terminal portions T, T of the fibers FB, FB and their abutting faces S, S eventually make contact with the V-groove 4 substantially simultaneously (see FIG. 8).

With further rotation of the dial 6, the block 5 applies loads W, W the terminal portions T, T of the fibers FB, FB, causing them to flex and simultaneously advance along the V-groove 4 in opposite directions.

30 The relationship between the V-groove 4 and the terminal portions T, T of the fibers FB, FB at this time is illustrated in FIG. 10. It will be



noted that elastic forces F1, F1 of substantially equal magnitude act to produce approximately identical elastic curvature in the terminal portions T, T.

Moreover, since substantially equal and opposite forces F2, F2 act on the terminal portions T, T, the centers of the abutting faces S, S approach  
5 each other along substantially the same line and can therefore be abutted in precise alignment.

As a result, the fibers FB, FB are optically joined in facing relationship.

As explained in the foregoing, this method of splicing the fibers  
10 FB, FB consists in sliding the terminal portions T, T of the fibers FB, FB along the V-groove 4 in mutually opposite directions, imparting substantially equal elastic forces F1, F1 thereto, bringing the abutting faces S, S of the terminal portions T, T of the fibers FB, FB into abutment, and thereafter forcing the abutting faces S, S into pressure contact.

The implementation of this method therefore produces an optical  
15 fiber splice structure comprising the terminal portions T, T of the fibers FB, FB spliced in the V-groove 4 under pressure contact with opposite forces F2,F2 and exertion of substantially equal elastic forces F1, F1.

Although the flat plate 31 is hinged to the base plate 30 in this  
20 embodiment, the invention is not limited to this arrangement and the two plates can instead be maintained in tight contact by any of various other means such as screws.

Further, the invention is not limited to the foregoing horizontal  
25 holders 3, 3 having the base plates 30 and flat plates 31 stacked vertically but can instead utilize vertical holders 3, 3 having the base plates 30 and flat plates 31 stacked horizontally (see FIG. 11).

The splicer 1, splicing method and splice structure explained in the foregoing enable the abutting faces S, S of the fibers FB, FB to be abutted with substantially no offset between their centers.

30 They also eliminate the need for matching oil because the fibers FB, FB are spliced and pressure-contacted utilizing their own elasticity.

The fact that the fibers FB, FB are pressed onto each other by elastic force means that the conditions of the splicing can be made identical even among the individual fibers of a multi-filament optical fiber bundle, so that optical splicing of all fibers can be achieved without need for matching oil.

5 Other advantages of the splicer, splicing method and splice structure according to this invention include that the splicing operation and condition can be readily observed visually and than no connector or the like is required.

10 In addition, the splicer 1 can be utilized repeatedly without need for troublesome oil cleaning and replenishment, since splicing can be achieved without use of matching oil.

The invention therefore provides a simple, convenient means for splicing optical fibers in the laboratory in cases where some amount of transmission loss or change in performance with aging can be tolerated.

15 For person working in the field of telecommunications, on the other hand, it provides a splicer that is useful for temporarily splicing multi-filament optical fiber bundles and mono-filament optical fibers during optical fiber installation.

20 The amount of elongation (elongation percentage; contraction being considered negative elongation) of the tension springs 10, 10 connected between the arm 70 of the slide member 7 and the base 9 is set with a view to preventing breakage of the fibers FB, FB by pressure contact forces F2, F2 that exceed the allowable stress of the fibers FB, FB.

25 More specifically, the arrangement is such that if the eccentric cam 8 should be rotated to a point beyond the set amount of elongation (contraction) of the tension springs 10, 10, the tension springs 10, 10 hold the block 5 provided with the V-groove 4.

30 In other words, the tension springs 10, 10 function as a pressure limiting mechanism that prevents greater than the allowable stress from acting on the fibers FB, FB and thus protects the fibers FB, FB from breakage.

A pressure mechanism utilizing gravitational force instead of the tension springs 10, 10 can also be used.

A splicer 1A that is a second embodiment of the present invention will now be explained with reference to FIG. 11.

The splicer 1A differs from the splicer 1 in the means it uses for abutting and pressure-contacting the optical fibers to be spliced. Specifically, it  
5 uses a rotating mechanism for rotating the holders 3, 3 in place of the drive mechanism for moving the holders 3, 3.

The rotating mechanism comprises a pair of driving gears 32, 32 and a pair of driven gears 33, 33. The holders 3, 3 are installed vertically to rotate synchronously with the rotation of the driven gears 33, 33.

10 The holders 3, 3 initially oppose each other at 180 degrees. After attachment of the fibers FB, FB to be spliced, they are rotated in opposite directions by around 40 degrees each so as to make their opposing faces swing downward in FIG. 11, thus sliding the terminal portions T, T of fibers FB, FB along the V-groove 4 in mutually opposite directions, imparting substantially  
15 equal elastic forces F1, F1 thereto, bringing the abutting faces S, S of the terminal portions T, T of the fibers FB, FB into abutment, and thereafter forcing the abutting faces S, S into pressure contact.

The force of the pressure contact can, as in the first embodiment, be applied through springs that also function as a pressure limiting mechanism.  
20 Otherwise, the block 5 with V-groove can be supported by a parallel translation mechanism and a pressure limiting mechanism be constituted of springs independently of the rotating mechanism (see FIG. 12(d)).

In other aspects, the second embodiment provides the same effects and advantages as the first.

25 A splicer 1B that is a third embodiment of the present invention will now be explained with reference to FIGs. 12(a)-12(d).

In the splicer 1B, the holders 3, 3 constituted of the base plates 30 and flat plates 31 are mounted on slide guides 34, 34 to be slidable toward and away from the block 5 formed with the V-groove 4. The holders 3, 3 are  
30 operated by a slide mechanism that moves them toward the block 5 with substantially identical timing.

The block 5 of the splicer 1B is equipped with a pressure limiting mechanism composed of a parallel translation mechanism 35 for restricting movement of the block 5 to a single direction and a force limiting spring 36.

5 The slide mechanism and the parallel translation mechanism 35 can be of conventional configuration. The slide mechanism, for instance, can utilize gear and/or belt means.

FIG. 12(a) shows the holders 3, 3 of the splicer 1B just after attachment of the fibers FB, FB. The holders 3, 3 are then slowly and simultaneously slid toward the block 5 as shown in FIG. 12(b).

10 As the holders 3, 3 continue moving toward the block 5, the fiber terminal portions T, T to be abutted slide along the V-groove 4 as shown in FIG. 12(c), thus bringing the abutting faces S, S of the terminal portions T, T into abutment. Then as shown in FIG. 12(d), the abutting faces S, S are brought into pressure contact by further sliding of the holders 3, 3.

15 At this time, the pressure limiting mechanism prevents breakage of the fibers FB, FB owing to excessive stress.

In other aspects, the third embodiment provides the same effects and advantages as the first.

20 The optical fiber splicer and splice structure according to the present invention enable optical fibers to be spliced with high precision, i.e., with substantially no offset between the centers of their terminal portions, without use of a connector or matching oil.

25 Since the optical fibers are pressed onto each other by springs, moreover, the conditions of the splicing can be made identical even among the individual fibers of a multi-filament optical fiber bundle, so that optical splicing of all fibers can be achieved without need for matching oil.

The splicing condition can be readily ascertained by visual observation.

30 Moreover, repeated splicing is possible without need for troublesome oil cleaning and replenishment, because no matching oil is required for splicing.

The splicing method of the present invention protects the optical fibers from breakage by stress in excess of the allowable limit.

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An optical fiber splicer comprising:  
a pair of retaining means for retaining optical fibers to be spliced;  
5       abutment and pressure-contact means for sliding terminal portions  
of the optical fibers in mutually opposite directions along a groove of V-shaped  
cross-section, producing substantially equal elastic forces in the terminal  
portions, bringing the terminal portions into abutment, and bringing the abutted  
terminal portions into pressure contact.  
10
2. An optical fiber splicer according to claim 1, wherein the  
abutment and pressure-contact means is a drive mechanism for moving a block  
formed with the groove of V-shaped cross-section.
- 15       3. An optical fiber splicer according to claim 1, wherein the  
abutment and pressure-contact means is a rotating mechanism for rotating the  
pair of retaining means.
- 20       4. An optical fiber splicer according to any of claims 1 to 3,  
further comprising a pressure limiting mechanism for limiting pressure applied  
by the abutment and pressure contact means to a prescribed value.
- 25       5. An optical fiber splicing method comprising:  
a step of sliding terminal portions of optical fibers to be spliced  
along a groove of V-shaped cross-section in mutually opposite directions and  
producing substantially equal elastic forces in the terminal portions; and  
a step of bringing the terminal portions into abutment and then  
bringing the abutted terminal portions into pressure contact.
- 30       6. An optical fiber splice structure comprising terminal portions of  
optical fibers spliced in a groove of V-shaped cross-section under pressure  
contact and exertion of substantially equal elastic forces.

## ABSTRACT

An optical fiber splicer includes a pair of retainers for retaining optical fibers to be spliced, a block formed with a groove of V-shaped cross-section, and abutment and pressure-contact mechanism for sliding terminal portions of the optical fibers in mutually opposite directions along the groove, producing substantially equal elastic forces in the terminal portions, bringing the terminal portions into abutment, and bringing the abutted terminal portions into pressure contact. An optical fiber splicing method includes a step of sliding terminal portions of optical fibers to be spliced along a groove of V-shaped cross-section in mutually opposite directions and producing substantially equal elastic forces in the terminal portions, and a step of bringing the terminal portions into abutment and then bringing the abutted terminal portions into pressure contact. An optical fiber splice structure includes terminal portions of optical fibers spliced in a groove of V-shaped cross-section under pressure contact and exertion of substantially equal elastic forces.

Fig. 1

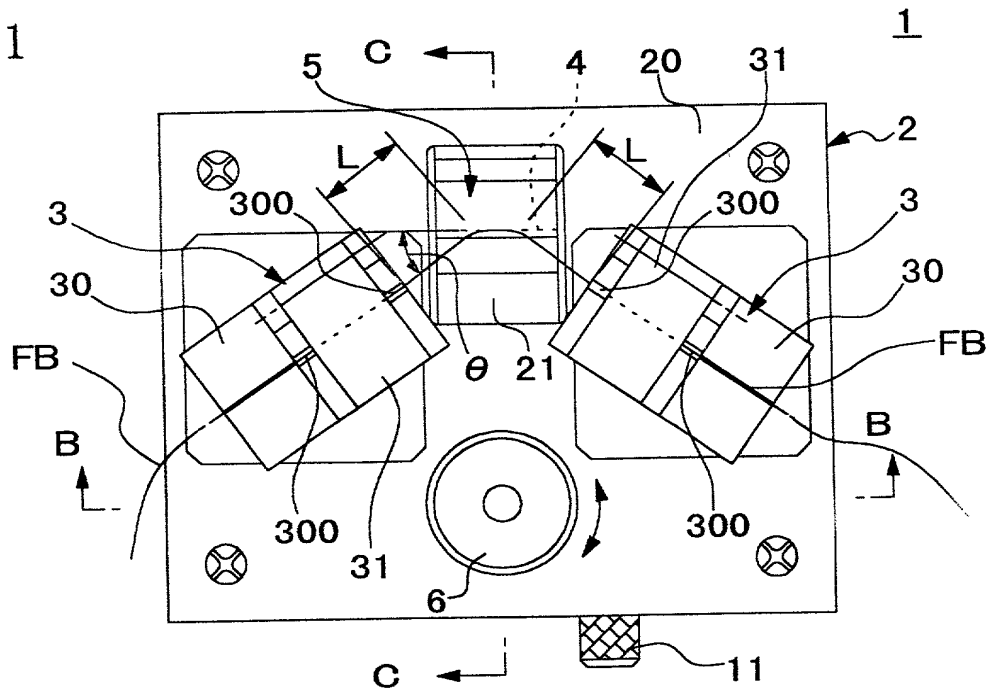


Fig. 2

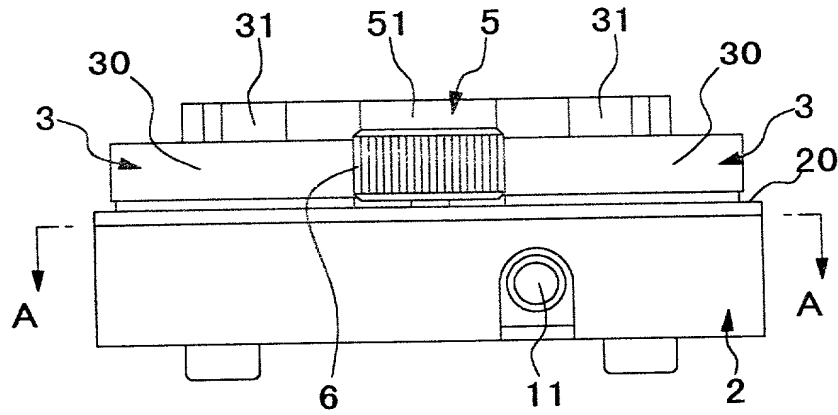


Fig. 3

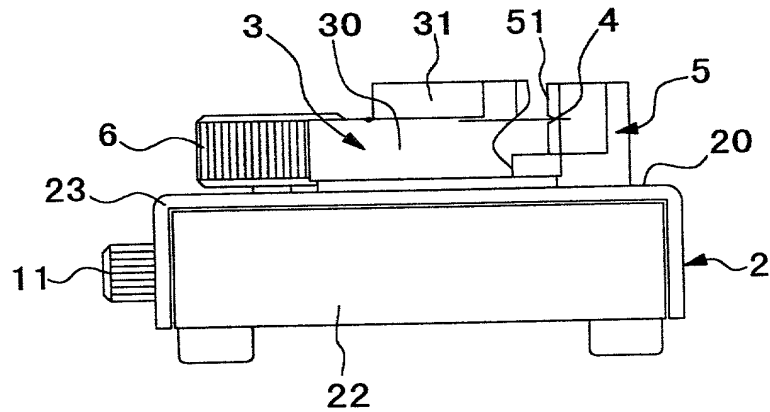




Fig. 4

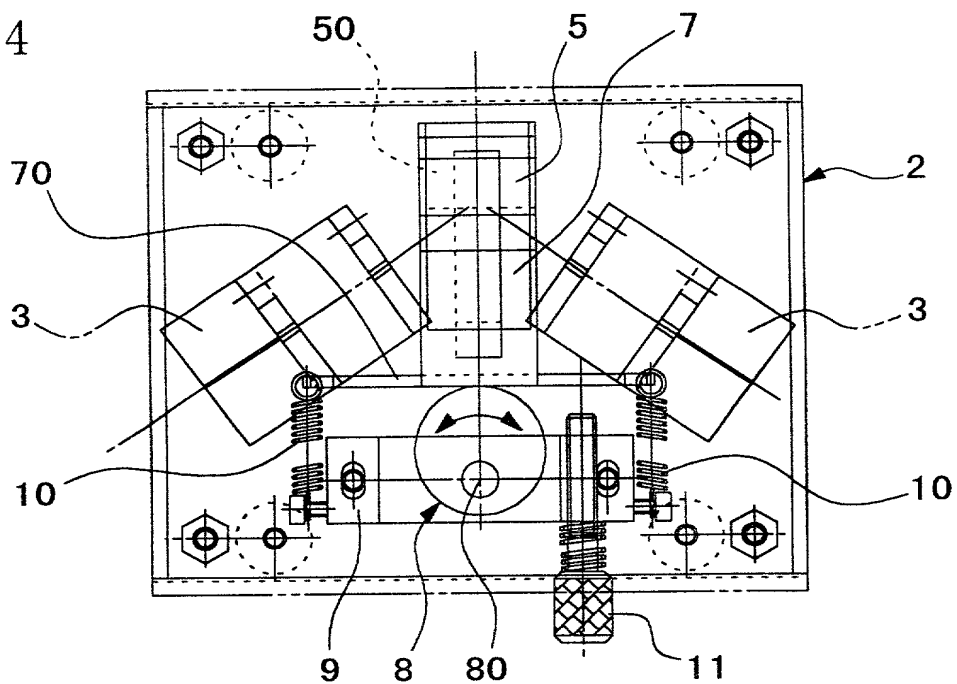


Fig. 5

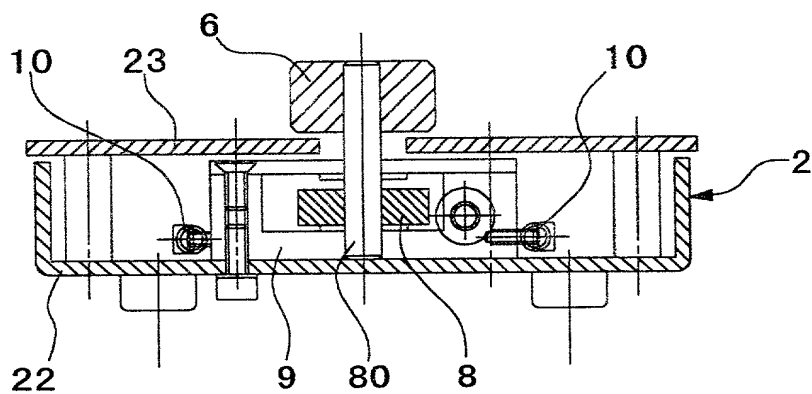
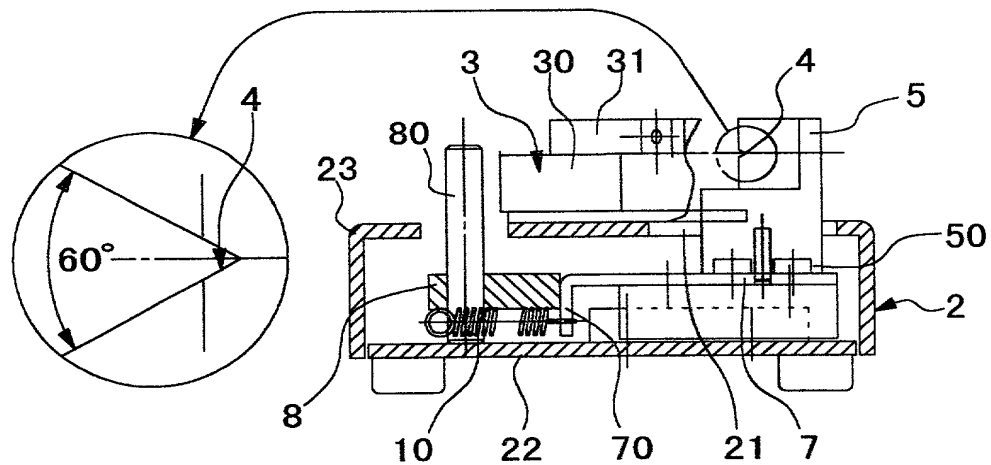


Fig. 6



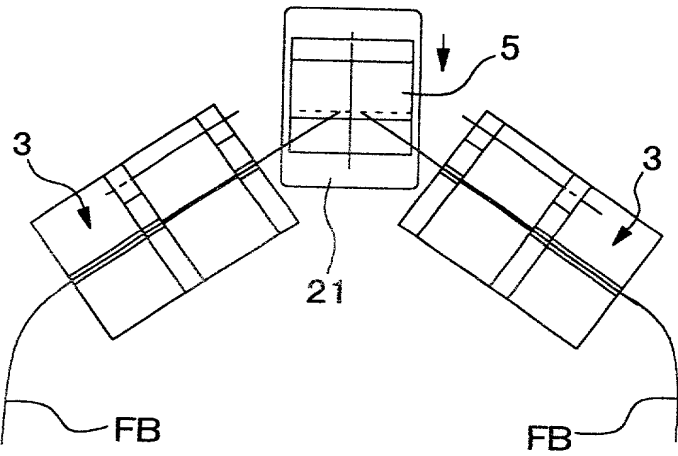
[illegible]

Fig. 9

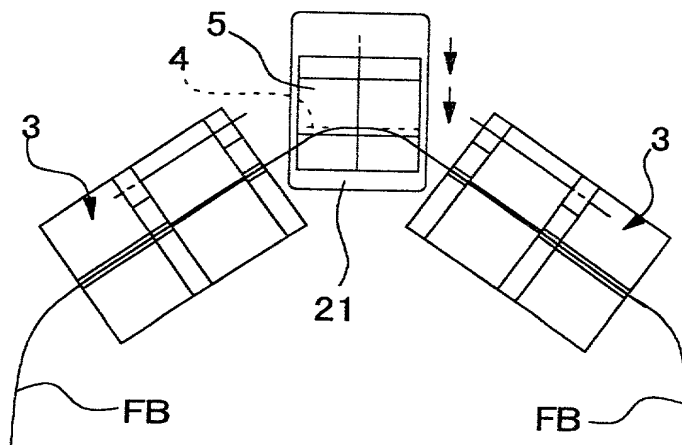


Fig. 10

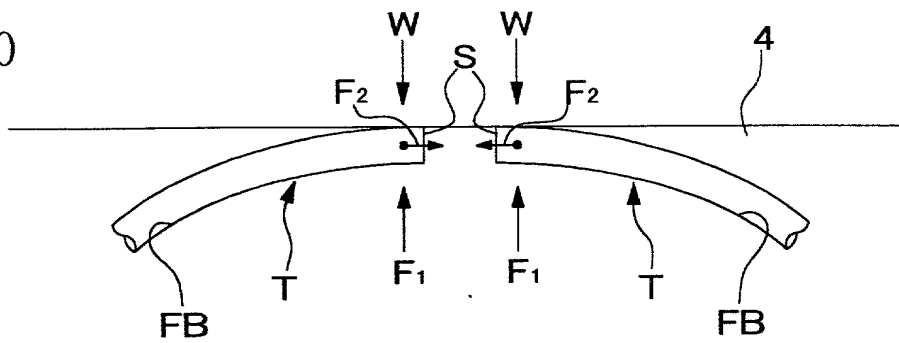


Fig. 11

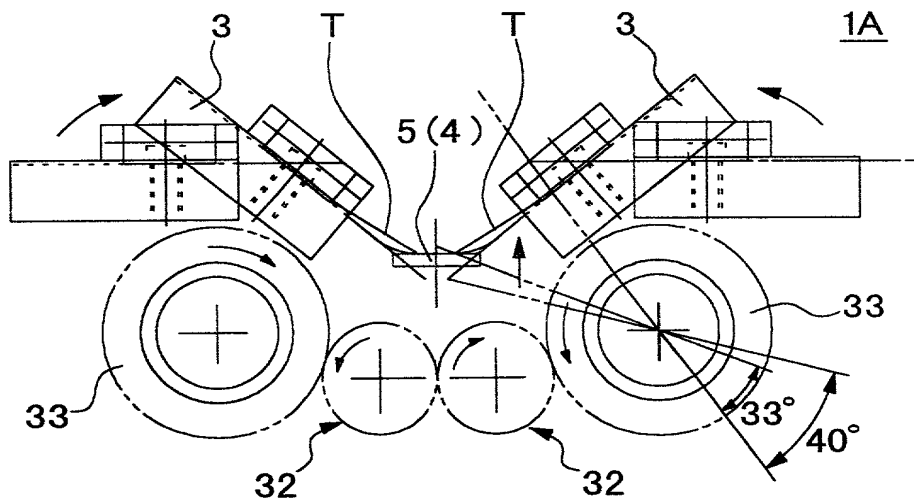
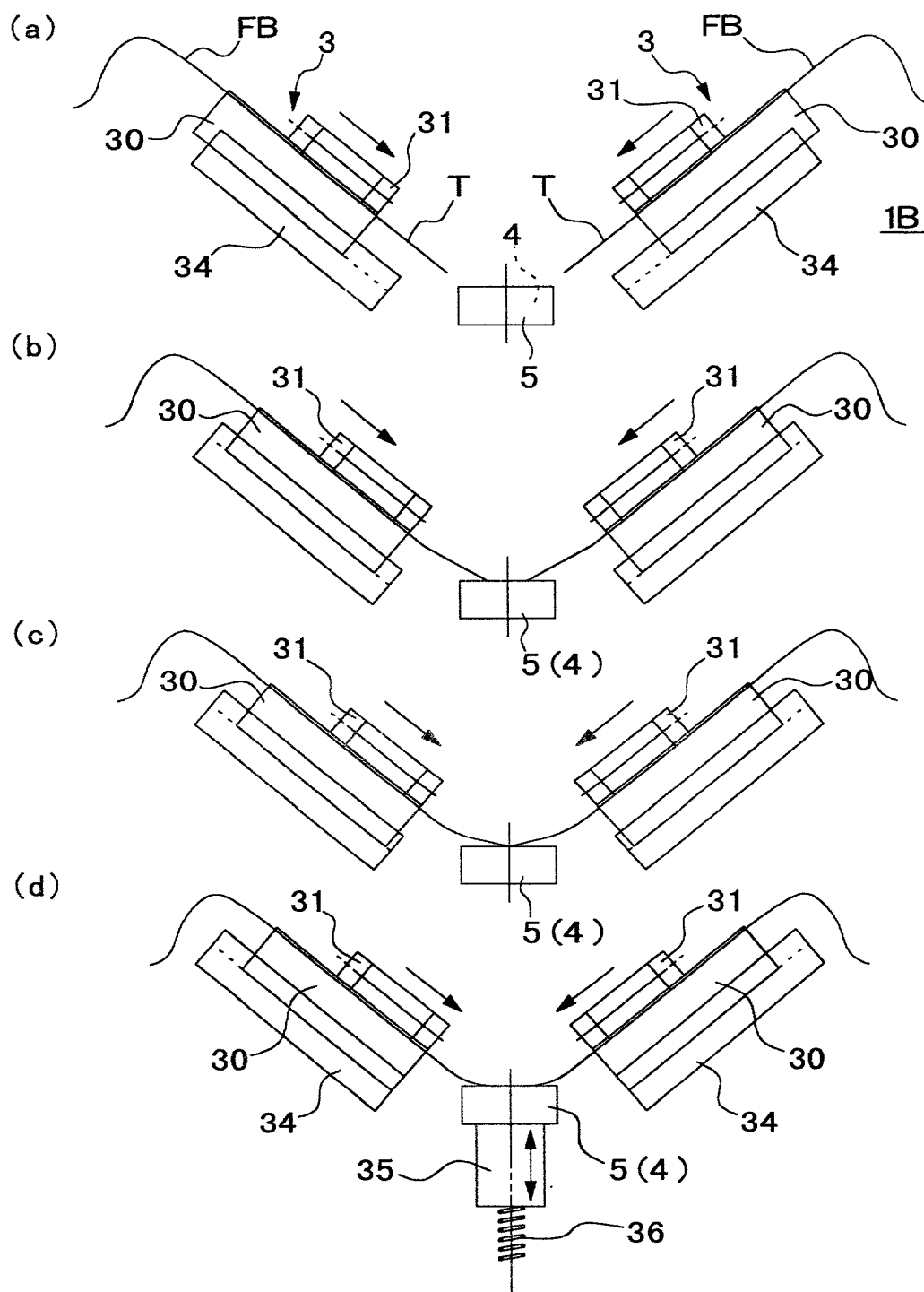


Fig. 12



## Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application

## 特許出願宣言書及び委任状

## Japanese Language Declaration

## 日本語宣言書

私は、以下に記名された発明者として、ここに下記の通り宣言する：

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that

私の住所、郵便の宛先そして国籍は、私の氏名の後に記載された通りである。

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

下記の名称の発明について、特許請求範囲に記載され、且つ特許が求められている発明主題に関して、私は、最初、最先且つ唯一の発明者である（唯一の氏名が記載されている場合）か、或いは最初、最先且つ共同発明者である（複数の氏名が記載されている場合）と信じている。

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OPTICAL

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OPTICAL

FIBER SPLICING

FIBER SPLICING

上記発明の明細書はここに添付されているが、下記の額がチェックされている場合は、この限りでない：

the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

☐ \_\_\_\_\_ の日に出願され、  
この出願の米国出願番号またはPCT国際出願番号は、  
\_\_\_\_\_ であり、且つ  
\_\_\_\_\_ の日に補正された出願（該当する場合）

☐ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_  
as United States Application Number or  
PCT International Application Number  
\_\_\_\_\_ and was amended on  
\_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

私は、上記の補正書によって補正された、特許請求範囲を含む上記明細書を検討し、且つ内容を理解していることをここに表明する。

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

私は、連邦規則法典第37編規則1.56に定義されている、特許性について重要な情報を開示する義務があることを認める。

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.4 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the need of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231.

# Japanese Language Declaration (日本語宣言書)

私は、ここに、以下に記載した外国での特許出願または発明者証の出願、或いは米国以外の少なくとも一国を指定している米国法典第35編第365条(a)によるPCT国際出願について、同第119条(a)-(d)項又は第365条(b)項に基づいて優先権を主張するとともに、優先権を主張する本出願の出願日より前の出願日を有する外国での特許出願または発明者証の出願、或いはPCT国際出願については、いかなる出願も、下記の枠内をチェックすることにより示した。

I hereby claim foreign priority under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application for which priority is claimed

Prior Foreign Application(s)

外国での先行出願

Priority Not Claimed

優先権主張なし

347238/1999

JAPAN

7 December 1999

(Number)  
(番号)(Country)  
(国名)(Day/Month/Year Filed)  
(出願日/月/年)(Number)  
(番号)(Country)  
(国名)(Day/Month/Year Filed)  
(出願日/月/年)

私は、ここに、下記のいかなる米国仮特許出願についても、その米国法典第35編第119条(e)項の利益を主張する。

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below

(Application No.)  
(出願番号)(Filing Date)  
(出願日)(Application No.)  
(出願番号)(Filing Date)  
(出願日)

私は、ここに、下記のいかなる米国出願についても、その米国法典第35編第120条に基づく利益を主張し、又米国を指定するいかなるPCT国際出願についても、その同第365条(c)に基づく利益を主張する。また、本出願の各特許請求の範囲の主題が、米国法典第35編第112条第1段に規定された態様で、先行する米国出願又はPCT国際出願に開示されていない場合においては、その先行出願の出願日と本国内出願日またはPCT国際出願日との間の期間中に入手された情報で、連邦規則法典第37編規則1.56に定義された特許性に関わる重要な情報について開示義務があることを承認する。

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of application.

(Application No.)  
(出願番号)(Filing Date)  
(出願日)(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned)  
(現況: 特許許可、係属中、放棄)(Application No.)  
(出願番号)(Filing Date)  
(出願日)(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned)  
(現況: 特許許可、係属中、放棄)

私は、ここに表明された私自身の知識に係わる陳述が真実であり、且つ情報と信ずることに基づく陳述が、真実であると信じられることを宣言し、さらに、故意に虚偽の陳述などを行った場合は、米国法典第18編第1001条に基づき、罰金または拘禁、若しくはその両方により処罰され、またそのような故意による虚偽の陳述は、本出願またはそれに対して発行されるいかなる特許も、その有効性に問題が生ずることを理解した上で陳述が行われたことを、ここに宣言する。

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number

Japanese Language Declaration  
(日本語宣言書)

委任状: 私は本出願を審査する手続を行い、且つ米国特許商標庁との全ての業務を遂行するために、記名された発明者として、下記の弁護士及び/または弁理士を任命する。(氏名及び登録番号を記載すること)

POWER OF ATTORNEY As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith (list name and registration number)

RANDY LIPSITZ, Reg. No. 29,189

Randy Lipsitz, Reg. No. 29,189

## 書類送付先

Randy Lipsitz, Esq.  
Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP  
919 Third Avenue  
New York, NY 10022

## Send Correspondence to:

Randy Lipsitz, Esq.  
Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP  
919 Third Avenue  
New York, NY 10022

## 直通電話連絡先: (氏名及び電話番号)

Randy Lipsitz, Esq.  
(212) 715-9100

## Direct Telephone Calls to: (name and telephone number)

Randy Lipsitz, Esq.  
(212) 715-9100

第一または第一発明者氏名 Kenichi Iga	Full name of sole or first inventor Kenichi Iga
発明者の署名 日付	Inventor's signature Date <i>Kenichi Iga</i> November 13, 2000
住所 Machida-Shi, Tokyo Japan	Residence Machida-Shi, Tokyo Japan
国籍 Japan	Citizenship Japan
郵便の宛先 2-33-10, Tsukushino	Post Office Address 2-33-10, Tsukushino
Machida-Shi, Tokyo Japan	Machida-Shi, Tokyo Japan
第二共同発明者がいる場合、その氏名 Yoshiharu Kuwabara	Full name of second joint inventor, if any Yoshiharu Kuwabara
第二共同発明者の署名 日付	Second inventor's signature Date <i>Yoshiharu Kuwabara</i> November 13, 2000
住所 Machida-Shi, Tokyo Japan	Residence Machida-Shi, Tokyo Japan
国籍 Japan	Citizenship Japan
郵便の宛先 1627-14, Kisomachi	Post Office Address 1627-14, Kisomachi
Machida-Shi, Tokyo Japan	Machida-Shi, Tokyo Japan
(第三以下の共同発明者についても同様に記載し、署名をすること)	(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors.)

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → +

PTO/SB/02A (3-97)  
Approved for use through 9/30/98. OMB 0651-0032  
Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.



<b>DECLARATION</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL INVENTOR(S)</b> <b>Supplemental Sheet</b> Page <u>1</u> of <u>1</u>
--------------------	---

Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor					
Given Name (first and middle [if any])				Family Name or Surname			
Kouji				Yamamoto			
Inventor's Signature						Date	November 13, 2000
Residence: City	Machida-Shi, Tokyo	State		Country	Japan	Citizenship	Japan
Post Office Address 3190-8-203, Aihara							
Post Office Address							
City	Machida-Shi, Tokyo	State		ZIP		Country	Japan
Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor					
Given Name (first and middle [if any])				Family Name or Surname			
Jun				Mizuno			
Inventor's Signature						Date	November 13, 2000
Residence: City	Yokohama-Shi	State		Country	Japan	Citizenship	Japan
Post Office Address #201 Kureseiru Aobadai							
Post Office Address 2-17-9, Aobadai, Aoba-ku, Kanagawa-Ken							
City	Yokohama-Shi	State		ZIP		Country	Japan
Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor					
Given Name (first and middle [if any])				Family Name or Surname			
Inventor's Signature						Date	
Residence: City		State		Country		Citizenship	
Post Office Address							
Post Office Address							
City		State		ZIP		Country	

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.4 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

0947733 43400



Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box →

PTO/SB/02C (3-97)

Approved for use through 9/30/98. OMB 0651-0032

Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
e required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number

DECLARATION		REGISTERED PRACTITIONER INFORMATION (Supplemental Sheet)	
Name	Registration Number	Name	Registration Number
Richard L. Moss	39,782		
John C. Garces	40,616		
Nicholas L. Coch	20,065		
Peter A. Abruzzese	26,437		
Donald L. Rhoads	34,705		
Chris Kolefas	35,226		
Vito J. DeBari	36,496		
Caleb S. Pollack	37,912		
Jonathan S. Caplan	38,094		
Albert B. Chen	41,667		
Robert E. Alderson	44,500		
Philip A. Gilman	38,160		

**Burden Hour Statement:** This form is estimated to take 0.4 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO:** Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.